

Spoken Word no. 179

Worked up Phony Religion

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2 Timothy 3:1 But understand this, that in the last days will come (set in) perilous times of great stress and trouble [hard to deal with and hard to bear]. **2**For people will be lovers of self and [utterly] self-centered, lovers of money and aroused by an inordinate [greedy] desire for wealth, proud and arrogant and contemptuous boasters. They will be abusive (blasphemous, scoffing), disobedient to parents, ungrateful, unholy and profane. **3**[They will be] without natural [human] affection (callous and inhuman), relentless (admitting of no truce or appeasement); [they will be] slanderers (false accusers, troublemakers), intemperate and loose in morals and conduct, uncontrolled and fierce, haters of good. **4**[They will be] treacherous [betrayers], rash, [and] inflated with self-conceit. [They will be] lovers of sensual pleasures and vain amusements more than and rather than lovers of God. **5**For [although] they hold a form of piety (true religion), they deny and reject and are strangers to the power of it [their conduct belies the genuineness of their profession]. Avoid [all] such people [turn away from them]. **6**For among them are those who worm their way into homes and captivate silly and weak-natured and spiritually dwarfed women, loaded down with [the burden of their] sins [and easily] swayed and led away by various evil desires and seductive impulses. **7**[These weak women will listen to anybody who will teach them]; they are forever inquiring and getting information, but are never able to arrive at a recognition and knowledge of the Truth. **8**Now just as [a]Jannes and Jambres were hostile to and resisted Moses, so these men also are hostile to and oppose the Truth. They have depraved and distorted minds, and are reprobate and counterfeit and to be rejected as far as the faith is concerned.(A) **9**But they will not get very far, for their rash folly will become obvious to everybody, as was that of those [magicians mentioned].

So we are looking at a picture of the end-time that doesn't look to good. And in Paragraph 32 of the afternoon session of *the Spoken Word is the original seed*, brother Branham said, Now, *Adam's bride could not wait, but she went forward first. That's the way today, the bride today. She wants to manufacture something. "Glory to God," she's got to work it up on the platform. She's got to have everything. See? What is she doing? Manufacturing something. Look where it's going. You can see there's nothing to it; it's ah phony.* Exactly right. *If it wasn't, this world would be aflame with the power of God; the church would be on fire; oh, what... Dead would be raised and all kinds of things would be taking place. But what did she get sowed up with before Christ could get to her, before He got to her to plant His Own seed? What did she have? Weed seeds, the world, denominational seeds. That's the reason why she's reaping her harvest right now. I hope you don't, make you upset, but I hope it gets right down to a place where I'll trust that God has given it to you. See?*

So we see that the church today is nothing but a worked up manufactured phony religion. And it is motivated more by money than by the word of God. Now, Brother Branham called it phony, and that word **phony** means: **1. a.** Not genuine or real; counterfeit: a phony credit card. **b.** False; spurious: a phony name. **2.** Not honest or truthful; deceptive: a phony excuse. **3. a.** Insincere or hypocritical. **b.** Giving a false impression of truth or authenticity; specious.

And so we see an insincere people, motivated by things other than truth. Motivated by other things than the desire to be an obedient son or daughter of God. Totally moved by money and their love for it. And the power it brings to them.

From his sermon, ***Does God change His mind 65-0418E P: 69*** Brother Branham tells us what motivated Balaam. He says, "*Balaam, for a better position he thought... Now, look, when that better group come back, Balaam here took a phony text. See? He said... The better group come back; he ought to have said, 'Get out of my presence. I've told you the Word of God. Get going. This is THUS SAITH THE LORD.'*" But you see, the gifts, *and to be a more popular man... Oh, how they like to do it. 'We'll send you all over the world. We'll give you a special plane. We'll sponsor your meetings everywhere if you'll just...' Oh, no. See? We know what the Word says. We know what God said. We're going to stay with that by God's help. See? No matter what kind of a promise, and how much more you can pay, and how many this, that, or the other you can--you can produce, we want the THUS SAITH THE LORD and what He said here first. Well, the church said, 'That's secondarily.' We want what the--God said at the beginning, and anything added to it or taken away from it, even your name will be taken off the Book of Life, to add one word to It or take one word away from It... We want what He said, not what the church said, what Dr. Jones said, what somebody else said; we want what THUS SAITH THE LORD said, what the Word said. 70* But now we find Balaam, a servant of God... And many of those men start out, and are ordained of God, and does speak God's Word in many things, but when it comes to the full truth, they won't do it. Notice here, as a prophet of God, he should not been caught in such a group as that to begin with. He shouldn't have went with them. But watch. For popularity sake (See?), for his conscience' sake, he said, "Well, stay all night, and I'll try again." See, "I'll try again." What do you want to try again for? God already told him what to say. God said, "Tell them you're not going." That's His original Word: "I'm not going." "And don't you go; don't you curse what I bless." Now, watch how it backfired on him after while. See? And it will every time. When God says anything, He means it. He don't change His mind about it. He stays right with His Word. No matter what anyone else says, He stays right with that Word. 71 Now, Balaam should've known better. He should've dismissed himself from such company, but all them nice gifts and the promise that this king said, "You know, I can do it; I'm the bishop. I can do just whatever I want to, and I'll promote you if you'll come do it for me." And God done told him, "Don't do it," but yet Balaam said, "You--you stay all night, and I'll--I'll try again." See? He had the Word. You don't have to argue anymore about it; God's done said so. With a group like that, they always talk you out of the will of God if you'll let them.

Does God change His mind 65-0418E P:72 There's one group to come to a prophet, one time, named Job. They couldn't talk him out. He saw the vision; he knew what was right. Balaam saw the vision and still didn't stay with it. No matter how much these church groups said, "Oh, Job, you ought to do this, you ought to do that"...Even his wife... He said, "You talk like a foolish person. (See?) I know what the Lord said; I know what He required, and that's what I done." See, he stayed with what God told him. Notice, Balaam using this phony text for his conscience... See? He said, "Well, I'll--I'll find out. I'll try again." Now, there's where you come secondarily. How many Balaams have we got tonight that likes to use that phony text of **Matthew 28:19** just for their conscience' sake? How many wants to use **Malachi 4** for their conscience' sake? How many wants to use Luke 17:30 just for conscience' sake? How many wants to use these things, yet, "Well, I tell you, I believe they're all mixed up on that"? **P:73** And then here was Balaam trying to say, "**Perhaps maybe God's got mixed up; I'll try again, (See?) see what He says.**" Now, He knows your heart. Notice, **Balaam used this phony text for his own conscience' sake, because actually he wanted that money.** He wanted that dignitary; he wanted that job. He wanted that position to be looked up to as Dr. So-and-so. So he said, "**I'll try again.**" Oh, the Balaams in the world tonight: promised positions, popularity (my, oh, my.), **they numb their conscience by them.** Because of their denominations, they say, "If you do that, out you go. I know you're a good man, and we love you (and he is a good man), we love you, but you can't preach that. Our doctrine says you can't do that. Dr. So-and-so said this is the way it is. Now, **you've got to believe it this way if you stay with us.** Now, if you want to, I know you had a hard time, well, I'll see if I can't get you promoted, maybe change churches." Oh, you Balaam. **When you know the will of God, you do it. God ain't going to change His mind.** No. **P:74** Something that **He could pass by, the truth, for His commission...** He said, "Well, I'll try again." Notice the Balaams there is. So now remember, when he come the second night with this great celebrity, already had his conscience dull and numb, God let him go. Now, **God never changed His mind, but He give him His permissive will. "Go ahead then."** But he found out it'll not work. God knew what was in Balaam's heart. Though he was a prophet, He knew he hated them holy-rollers, and he just, he was going to want to curse them anyhow, and God done told him not to do it, but yet he come, wanted to do it again, so God let him go ahead. God said, "**Go ahead.**" Now, remember, He never changed His mind. **P:92** Just look at it in the field today. As Balaam married a harlot into God's church, so is these false teachers today trying to tell you. They're going to marry every one of these organizations and these people into the old harlot of Revelation 17. **They're Balaam doctrine,** going around today and say, "**We're just the same; we're all Christians.**" And priests and popes and what ever more are all compromising and doing this. The preacher said... Even I know a Pentecostal preacher... All of them started now giving a round kosher, which means Ashtoreth, the moon god, a kosher wafer, say, "Shut your eyes and take it if it hurts your conscience." Shut your eyes? A round wafer? What does it mean? We are taking a broken body, Jesus Christ broken, not a round moon god, Ashtoreth, who Mary took the place of (and the Roman kosher's still round)... For the moon goddess. We have a broken Kosher. Certainly. Oh.

In the Book of Jude we are warned at the end-time there will be those who depart from "*The Faith*" and who go in "*the way of Cain*". Cain was the first on earth to depart from "*The Presence of the Lord*", and those that depart from the presence of the Lord will be religious just like Cain was and they will make great sacrifice to God like Cain did but their sacrifice will be considered evil just like Cain's was.

Notice further, that Jude describes these men as not only following the way of Cain, But notice also that Jude warns us these men shall also follow after the "error of Balaam" and they will do it for money just like Balaam did.

Jude 1: 11 *Woe unto them! for they have gone in the way of Cain, and ran greedily after the error of Balaam for reward,* (Notice that they run greedily. In other words, these are greedy men. And they run after the error of Balaam because of their greed. So what was the error of Balaam that men will run after it because of greed? The error of Balaam is a message of unity. Bring everyone together for after all are we not all the same? *And perished in the gainsaying of Core.*

What was the gainsaying of Koreh? Korah led a rebellion against Moses and said, we are holy too, and all the people are holy, and why do you take it upon yourself to rule over us. There's plenty of room for more than one to rule. We are holy too. You see it was the gainsaying of Koreh. There was something in it for him to gain from what he said. They didn't want a One Man Message from a One Man ministry. So they rebelled using the multitudes of people to stand with them against the movement of God. And they are doing that same thing today, saying "we are five fold ministry, we got something to say as well, "God doesn't speak through one just one man!" And right there they separate themselves from the true Five Fold ministry who will only say what the vindicated prophet has told them to say.

Notice how **Jude** continues to describe these false ministers at the end-time. *12 These are spots in your feasts of charity, when they feast with you, feeding themselves without fear* (Notice he says when they feast with you, so these are those who come right into this message and start eating with us from the Spiritual Food in Due season that was laid up for us. But the message did not go out to them, they came into the Message. And then notice that Jude further describes these men by saying,) *clouds they are without water.*

Now a cloud without water is one without rain. And Paul calls witnesses of what took place clouds. He calls them "*clouds of witnesses*". So Clouds represent people who have witnessed this end-time ministry but those without water are those who are witnesses with the doctrine.

Paul spoke in **Hebrews 12: 1** *Wherefore seeing we also are compassed about with so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which doth so easily beset us, and let us run with patience the race that is set before us,*

Yet Jude speaks of these clouds as having no water. These clouds are without water, Therefore clouds without rain. Now, why is this so significant? Because God said in

Deuteronomy 32:1-2 *Give ear, O ye heavens, and I will speak; and hear, O earth, the words of my mouth. 2 My doctrine shall drop as the rain, my speech shall distil as the dew, as the small rain upon the tender herb, and as the showers upon the grass:)* carried about of winds; trees whose fruit withereth, without fruit, twice dead, plucked up by the roots; 13 Raging waves of the sea, foaming out their own shame; wandering stars, to whom is reserved the blackness of darkness for ever.

So if these are clouds, which are witnesses, think it not strange that there are so many witnesses to the ministry of William Branham who haven't a clue to the doctrine he taught? We are warned here in scripture and in 2 Peter of the same, as well as the Apostle Paul. Notice here that Jude said clouds, not cloud. Now, this brings us to the fact that there are two doctrines which are predominant in this hour. The Doctrine of Christ for which if you do not have that Doctrine, you do not even have God. And then there is the Doctrine of Balaam which we are warned about that will come in among us. And notice we are warned that men will run after the Doctrine of Balaam because of their greed.

Now, the doctrine of Balaam is not that he went for money, but the doctrine of Balaam is that he tried to unite the people of God with those people who are not of God. And in order to do that they must forsake the right way, which is God's way.

2 Peter 2: 15 *Which have forsaken the right way, and are gone astray, following the way of Balaam the son of Bosor, who loved the wages of unrighteousness;* Notice he loved not the wages, but the wages of un-right-wise-ness. In other words the wrong understanding pays. In other words, there's more money in preaching error than truth.

Now, the doctrine of Balaam is explained further in the book of revelations. **Revelation 2: 14** *But I have a few things against thee, because thou hast there* (Thou hast there where? Right in the Message that's where. Right in the end-time Church of the Living God, there are those who regard the Doctrine of Balaam because of their greed.) *them that hold the doctrine of Balaam, who taught Balac to cast a stumblingblock before the children of Israel, to eat things sacrificed unto idols, and to commit fornication.*

Now, how is it possible that the Doctrine of Balaam could come right into this message? Just the same way it came into the Pentecostal movement.

From Brother Branham's sermon called, **WHO DO YOU SAY THIS IS? 64-1227 80** *See, that's what he done to the Pentecostals. They said a few years ago, when you all start up, "You wouldn't go nowhere. There wasn't nothing to you. You'd burn out. You just a bunch of fanaticism." But every time they tried to curse you, you come right on back again. God kept revealing His Message. Down from the old Assembly, way back in the beginning, the General Council. Then He brought in when they received the Name of Jesus Christ for water baptism. Then one jumped this way, and one the other, and one went off organized this and that. God kept blessing. Now, when he seen he couldn't curse you (See?), so what's he going to do? He's going to organize you. Bring you, "Oh, we're all one anyhow. (See?) We all believe in the same God." So that's just what Balaam did. And didn't Jude warn us of this? They erred in the doctrine of Balaam and perished in the gainsaying of Korah. Doesn't Jude, the foster brother of Jesus, warn us of this in the*

Bible? They're like Cain, from the beginning, the hireling, the one that went to church and built churches and built an altar and sacrificed. They err in the way of Cain. They run in the way of Balaam, and perished in the gainsaying of Korah. Jude lays the whole thing out just like we're doing it this morning here before you, like we've been doing it. The whole thing lays there. **81** They perished in the gainsaying of Korah. Just think of that, how bad that was. Just to think of what that Korah... See, he said, "Now, we'll all go up to a feast. We're all one." The Moabites believed in God. That was Lot's daughter's kids. See? "We all believe in one God." Fundamentally, they were perfectly right. Watch Balaam up there, just as fundamental as any good Baptist or Presbyterian today. He come up there and there was Israel, that un-denominated... They was a nation, Israel wasn't a nation, it was a people at that time. They didn't want to go God's way after while. They wanted to be like the rest the nations. That's when they fail. But as long as they want to stay with God, all right. **82** Balaam come out, he looked down, said, "Well, my, I know one of them ministers married another man's wife." All these other things, oh sure, they had plenty. He forgot to hear The Shout of the King in the camp. He never seen that smitten rock, and that brass serpent hanging there for an atonement. He didn't realize that they wasn't hooked up to any organization. They was hooked up to God's covenant, and were walking in that. See? And Balaam said (fundamentally), "Build me seven altars." That's what Jehovah required. That's what Jehovah got on both sides. "All right, put seven calves upon it." That's what they was doing down there in that camp. "Put me seven rams on it because there's coming a Messiah someday." All right. **83** See, fundamentally, they were both right: fundamentally. See? But one day when he seen he couldn't get him on that, he said, "If we just organize ourselves together then." And that's where they made their mistake... And that's just exactly where Pentecost made its mistake, when it organized back like the rest of the churches. I'm not your enemy. I'm your brother. Some of these days you're going to find out that that's the truth. May take a little while yet (few turns of the sun), but someday you'll see that that's right. Then Balaam's doctrine hit them just... That's what they wanted. "We're all one." See? So there they went. All of their prophets and all went right with them. And was at the feast, the same said, "And we all believe that there's one God. Let's believe it." Just what they would been looking for, just exactly.

Twenty four years ago brother Vayle warned me that false teachers had come into this message to take the people away from The Faith. He told me to read **2 Peter 2:1** *But as there were false prophets among the people, even so shall there be false teachers among you, who privately shall bring in damnable heresies, even denying the Lord that bought them, (that's the Son) and by doing so, shall bring upon themselves swift destruction. 2 And many (not a few, but many) shall follow their pernicious ways; by reason of whom the way of truth shall be evil spoken of. (In other words, by what they do and teach shall bring the real truth which is the message into disrepute or a bad reputation.) 3 And through covetousness* (we all know what that is. It's the greed that Jude said was *the motive behind the doctrine of Balaam.*

So for money) *shall they with feigned words* (those are words that they just make up, which are nothing but lies, and so with their lies shall they) *make merchandise of you: whose judgment now of a long time lingereth not, and their damnation slumbereth not.* Now notice verse **12** *But these, as natural brute beasts,*(in other words they are not born again. *They have not God.* Therefore they have not the doctrine of Christ. And *they are made to be taken and destroyed,*(and it is these men who will) *speak evil of the things that they understand not; and shall utterly perish in their own corruption;*

Now, remember, at the end time there will be a vast influx of these evil men. They shall wax worse and worse as Paul warns us in **2 Timothy 3: 13** *But evil men* ("Poneros" men. Now, if the devil Himself is called "poneros", then these are his children or offspring.) *But evil men and seducers* (and isn't seduction the method that the serpent used on Eve. Now, seduction is not rape. It is not a forced thing. It is a very cleverly disguised way to get what they want, and it is called seduction. *And these evil men and seducers shall wax worse and worse, deceiving, and being deceived.* (Or able to deceive because they too have been deceived themselves so they appear to be very sincere in what they believe, and they are very convincing to others to come together and the larger the group the better for they believe that safety is in numbers.) We can be thankful because as God's seed we have been given an ability to be able to understand according to **John 1:12** & **1 Corinthians 2:1-10**. That is why the apostle Paul can say in **Hebrews 5:14** *But strong meat belongeth to them that are of full age, even those who by reason of use have their senses exercised to discern both good and evil.*

And we see the same thing in **Malachi 3:16-18**. *16 Then they that feared the LORD spoke often one to another: and the LORD hearkened, and heard it, and a book of remembrance was written before him for them that feared the LORD, and that thought upon his name. 17 And they shall be mine, saith the LORD of hosts, in that day when I make up my jewels,*(In that day when I come to assemble my people Lamsa translation); *and I will spare them, as a man spares his own son that serves him.(so we are looking at a relationship between father and sons here.* And because we are sons we know as we are known, and we will know the difference between righteousness (Right-wise-ness) and that which is error.) Then shall ye return,(return where? To where you began at. The starting point. And where was that? When we were in Christ before the foundations of the world. In other words, we will return to the Original Word. And you can not return unless you were there to begin with. And when we have returned to the Original Word, we shall discern between the righteous and the wicked, between him that serve God and him that serves not God. And that is where we are at this evening. **Ephesians 4:14** *That we henceforth be no more children, tossed to and fro, and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the sleight of men, and cunning craftiness, whereby they lie in wait to deceive;* And just remember, it is not of your doing, but His doing that counts. For the Apostle Paul said in **2 Thessalonians 3: 3** *But the Lord is faithful, who shall establish you, and keep you from evil. The Lord shall keep you from all "poneros". He shall keep you from being influenced by the wicked one and his devises. Philippians 1: 6* *Being confident of this very thing, that he which hath begun a good work in you will perform it until the day of Jesus Christ:*